

# UNIT 2

## Past Forms

### Past Perfect

#### FORM

She **had arrived/gone**.

**Had she arrived/gone?** Yes, she **had**./No, she **hadn't**.

She **had not (hadn't) arrived/gone**.

#### Use

The **past perfect** is used:

- ◆ for an action which happened before another past action or before a stated time in the past.



*They **had already reserved** the table when they went to the restaurant. (They made a reservation first and then they went to the restaurant.)*

*They **had already sat** down for dinner by 8 pm.*

- ◆ for an action which finished in the past and whose result was visible in the past.



*Bill **had injured** his legs in a car accident, so he **had to use** a wheelchair for six months.*

*(The action finished in the past and its result was visible in the past, too.)*

#### Note:

The **past perfect** is the past equivalent of the present perfect.

- He **had broken** his leg, so he **couldn't walk**.  
(The action 'had broken' happened in the past, and the result 'couldn't walk' was visible in the past, too.)
- He **has broken** his leg, so he **can't walk**.  
(The action 'has broken' happened in the past, and the result 'can't walk' is still visible in the present.)

We can use the **past perfect** or the **past simple** with **before** or **after** without any difference in meaning.  
e.g. She left **after** she **had finished** her work./She left **after** she **finished** her work.

The **past perfect** is used with the following time expressions: **before, after, already, for, since, just, till/until, when, by, by the time, never, etc.**

### Past Perfect Continuous

#### FORM

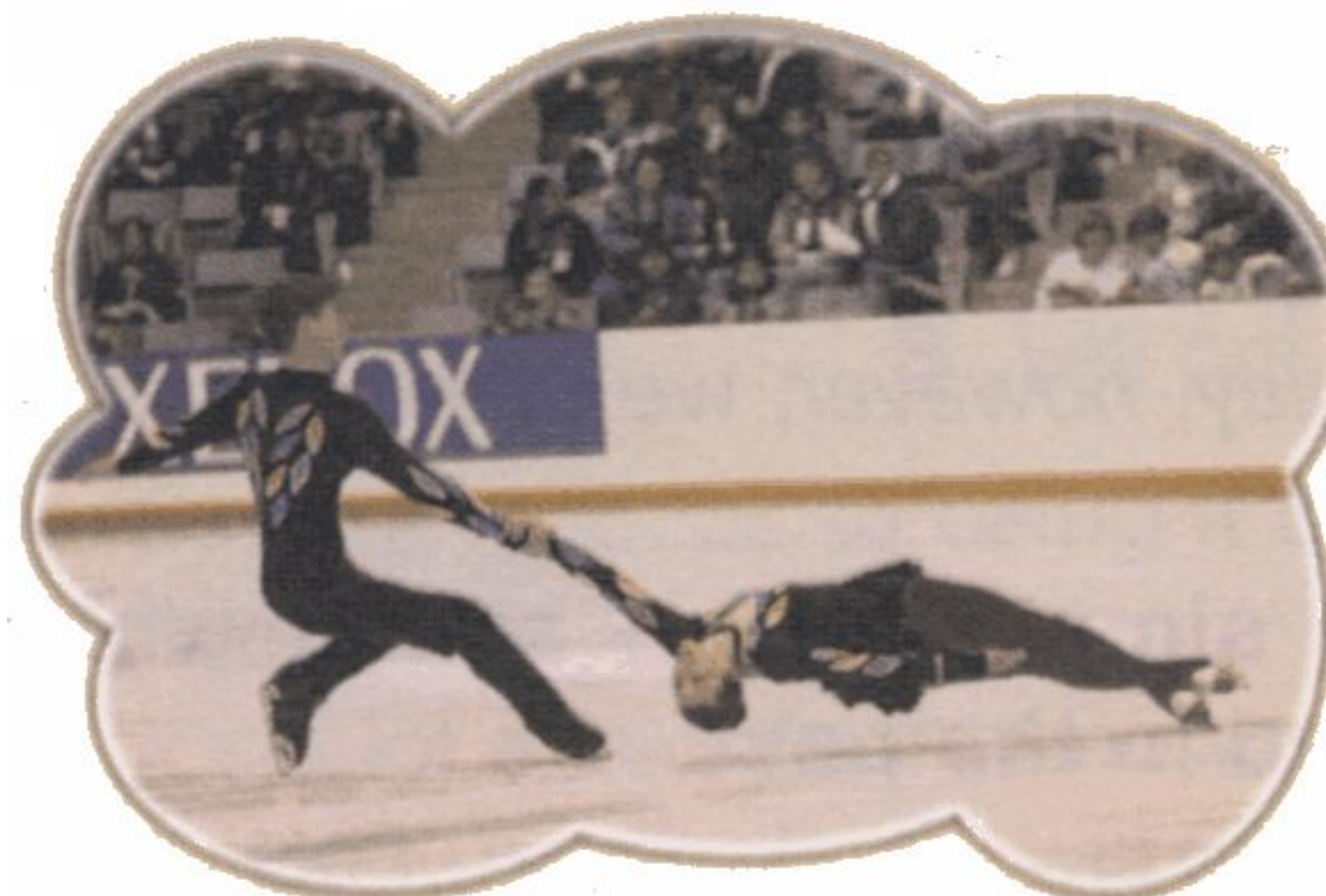
He **had been crying**.

**Had he been crying?** Yes, he **had**./No, he **hadn't**.

He **had not (hadn't) been crying**.

The **past perfect continuous** is used:

- ◆ to put emphasis on the duration of an action which started and finished in the past before another past action or a stated time in the past, usually with **since** or **for**.



*They **had been skating** together for five years before they entered the competition.*

- ◆ for an action which lasted for some time in the past and whose result was visible in the past.



*She **had been working** hard that day, so she was tired. (She spent all day working hard and the result of the action was visible in the past, too.)*

#### Note:

The **past perfect continuous** is the past equivalent of the present perfect continuous.

- He **had been waiting** for hours, so he **was bored**.  
(The action 'had been waiting' lasted for some time in the past, and the result 'was bored' was visible in the past.)
- He **has been waiting** for hours, so he **is bored**.  
(The action 'has been waiting' started in the past, and the result 'is bored' is still visible in the present.)

The **past perfect continuous** is used with the following time expressions: **for, since, how long, before, until, etc.**

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Fill in the gaps with one of the verbs from the list in the **past perfect continuous**.

read, scream, argue, try, eat, watch



1 Emily was angry.  
She *..had been arguing..*  
with her parents for an  
hour.

2 Hannah felt sick.  
She .....  
chocolates all after-  
noon.



3 Allan had a headache.  
His baby sister .....  
..... for half an hour.

4 Emily was frightened.  
She ..... a horror  
film for half an hour.



5 Simon was confused.  
He ..... to  
win the game for hours.

6 John was very tired.  
He .....  
all night.

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Put the verbs in brackets into the correct **past tense**.

A On Monday morning, Jo 1) *...missed...* (miss) the bus and had to walk to school. When she 2) ..... (arrive), the bell 3) ..... (already/ring) and lessons 4) ..... (start). The children 5) ..... (work) quietly when Jo 6) ..... (walk) into the classroom.

B When Jamie 1) ..... (get) to the party, a lot of people 2) ..... (dance) to pop music. Everyone 3) ..... (wear) jeans, and T-shirts. Jamie 4) ..... (buy) a new suit for the party and he 5) ..... (wear) that. He 6) ..... (feel) quite silly because everyone 7) ..... (look) at him.

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First, say which action happened first, then join the sentences using the words in brackets, as in the example.

- He saved a lot of money. Then, he bought a car. (when)  
*saved a lot of money: happened first*  
*When he had saved a lot of money, he bought a car.*
- She hung out the washing. Then, it began to rain. (after) .....
- Fiona tidied the house. Then, the children arrived home. (by the time) .....
- The guests left. Then, she started cleaning. (when) .....
- The girls put on their uniforms. Then, they went to school. (before) .....
- The meeting started. Then, the lights went out. (already.....when) .....

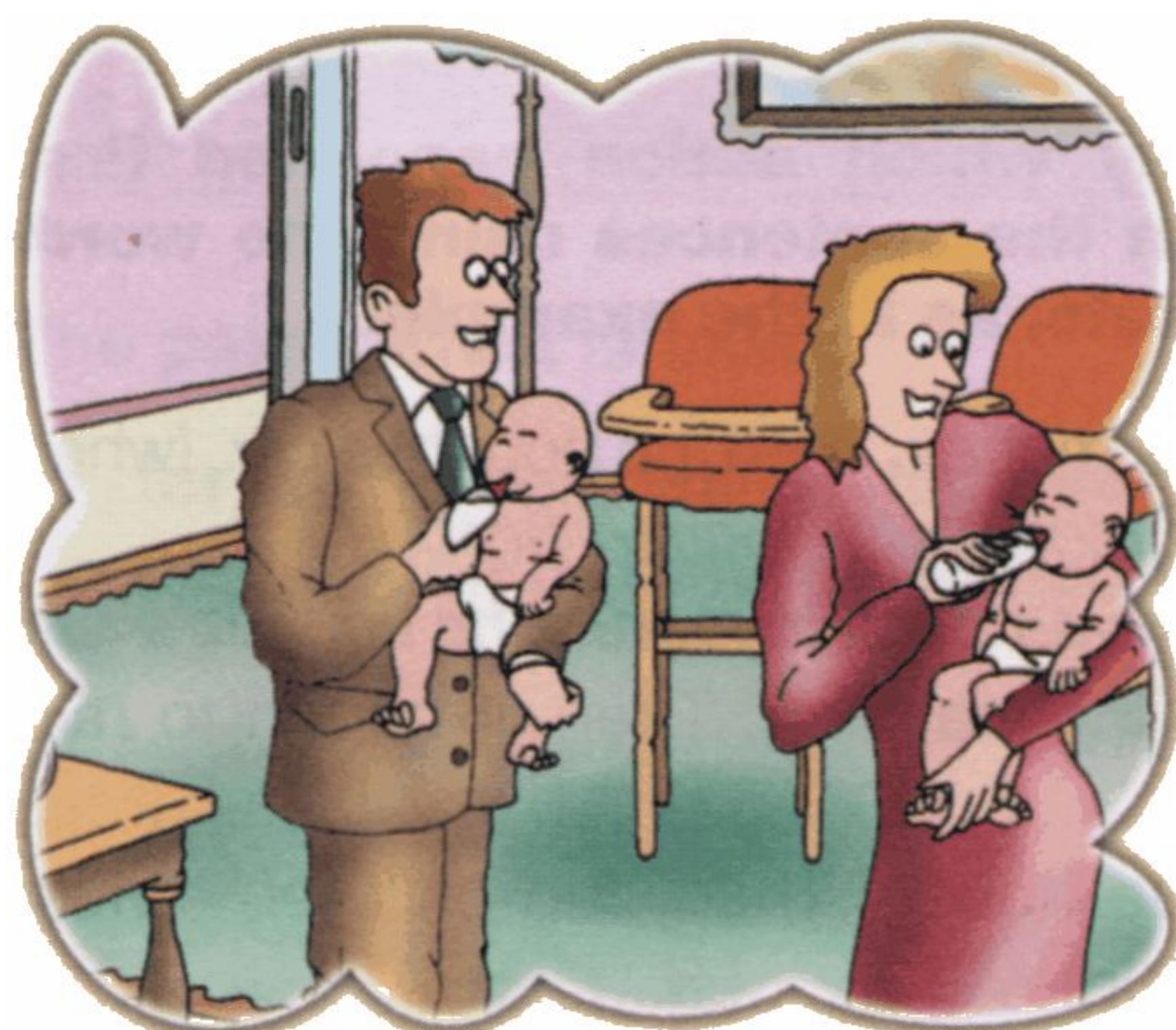
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Put the verbs in brackets into the **past perfect** or the **past perfect continuous**.

- A: Did you do anything last night?  
B: I went to the gym and I *...had just arrived...* (just/ arrive) home when Michael called me. He said he ..... (try) to call me for ten minutes before I finally answered the phone.
- A: Did you catch any fish on your fishing trip today?  
B: Yes. I ..... (sit) in the boat for two hours when I caught a huge fish.
- A: Did you enjoy the open-air concert yesterday?  
B: The music was good, but the weather was terrible. The concert ..... (just/start) when suddenly, it began to rain. The musicians ..... (only / play) for ten minutes.  
A: What a shame!
- A: Was the house tidy when you got home?  
B: Yes, the children ..... (dust) the furniture and they ..... (put away) all of their toys.
- A: Why were you so upset this morning?  
B: Well, I ..... (clean) the house for hours when the children came in with muddy shoes.
- A: Why are you so late for work this morning?  
B: I'm sorry. I ..... (wait) for the train for over an hour before it eventually arrived.

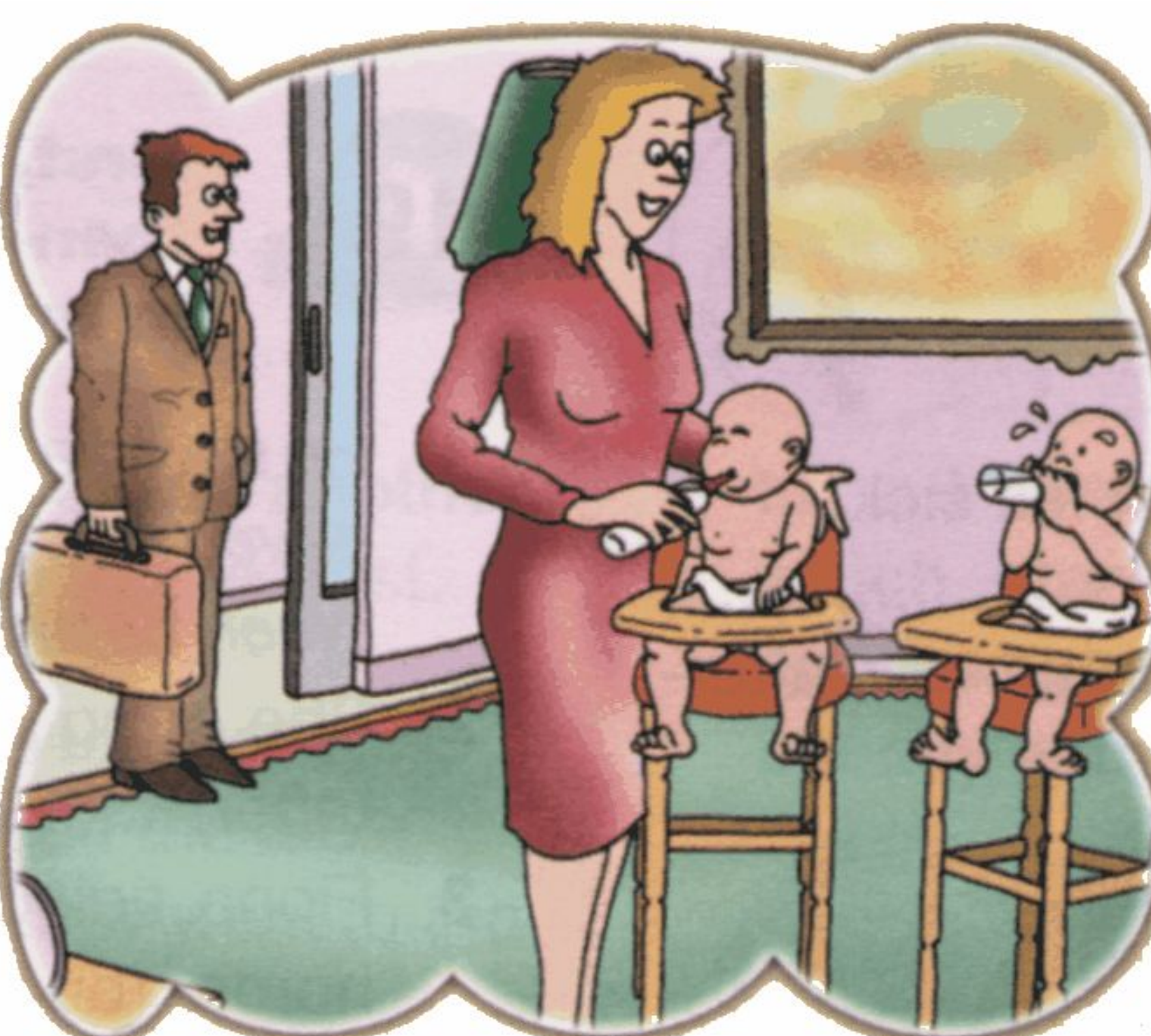
### Past Simple - Past Continuous - Past Perfect

- ◆ The **past simple** is used for actions which happened immediately one after the other in the past.



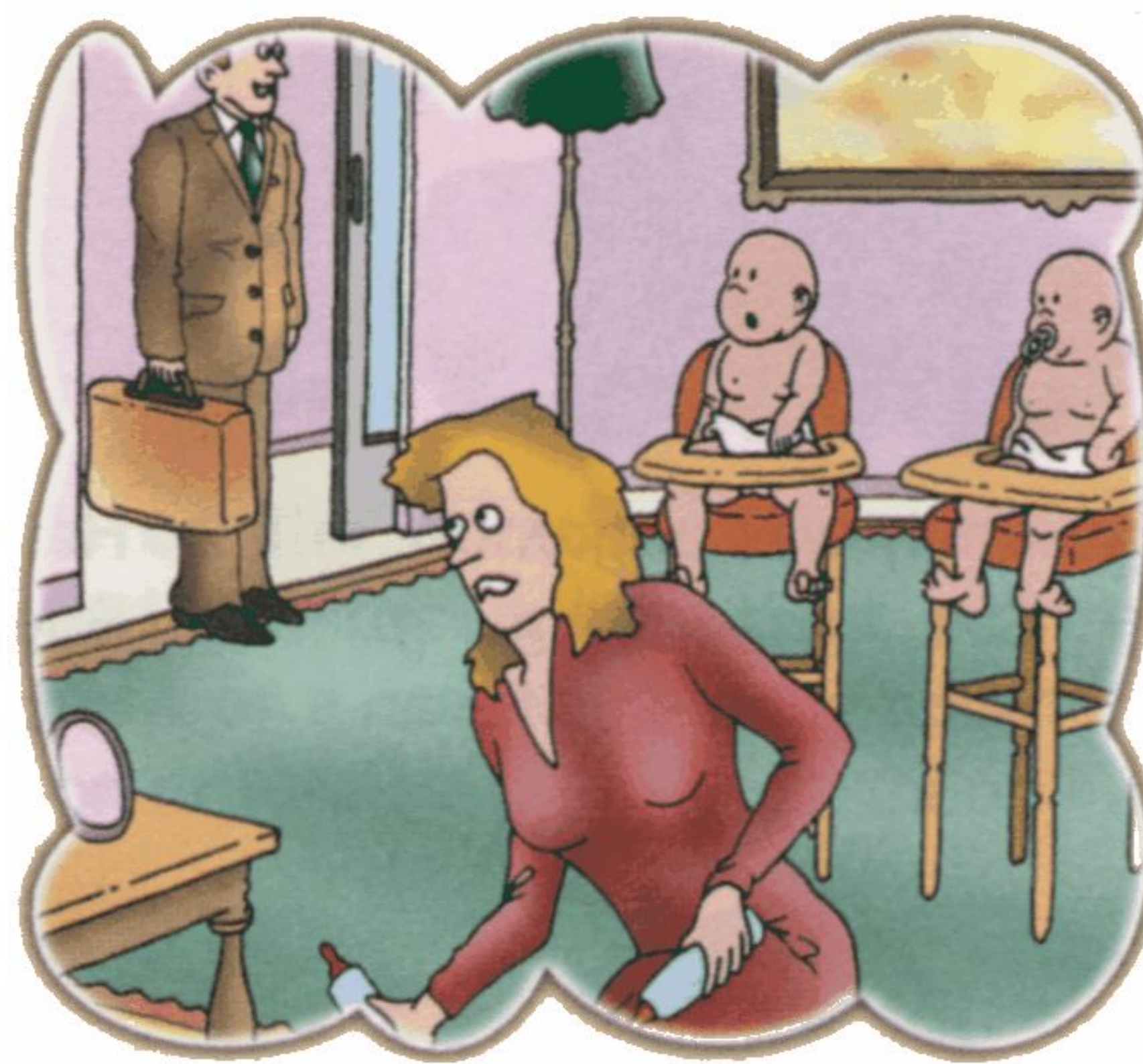
Last Monday, Lisa and her husband **fed** the children when he came home. (Her husband came home and then they fed the children together.)

- ◆ The **past continuous** is used for a past action which was in progress when another action interrupted it.



Last Tuesday, Lisa **was feeding** the children when her husband came home. (She was still feeding the children when her husband came home.)

- ◆ The **past perfect** is used for an action which happened before another past action.



Last Friday, Lisa **had already fed** the children when her husband came home. (She fed the children first. Her husband came home afterwards.)

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Put the verbs in brackets into the correct tense.

- 1 A: Why was Tim so tired last night?  
B: Oh, he ...**had been working**... (work) hard all day.
- 2 A: I ..... (go) to the cinema last night.  
B: Really? What ..... (you/see)?
- 3 A: Did you have enough to eat at the party?  
B: Yes. Sarah ..... (make) a lot of food.
- 4 A: What ..... (you/do) at eight o'clock last night?  
B: I ..... (watch) television. Why?
- 5 A: Colin! Look at yourself! You are filthy!  
B: I know. I ..... (repair) my motorbike.
- 6 A: I ..... (do) something really silly yesterday.  
B: Really, what?  
A: I ..... (get) up and ..... (set off) for work as usual. I ..... (drive) for an hour before I ..... (realise) it was Sunday.
- 7 A: I ..... (just/hear) some incredible news!  
B: What?  
A: Jason and Emily ..... (get) married last week in Las Vegas. Isn't that amazing?

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Put the verbs in brackets into the correct tense.

- A: What 1) ...**were you doing**... (do) when I 2) ..... (call) at eight, Burt?
- B: I 3) ..... (work) in the garden because the wind 4) ..... (blow down) the fence during the night.
- A: Oh, 5) ..... (you/manage) to fix it?
- B: Yes, I 6) ..... (do) it eventually, but it 7) ..... (be) very hard work. I 8) ..... (ask) my neighbour to help in the end. Why 9) ..... (you/call) me?
- A: I 10) ..... (want) to tell you about the factory. It 11) ..... (close down) yesterday.
- B: I know. The company 12) ..... (have) problems for a long time before they finally 13) ..... (decide) to close down the factory.
- A: I 14) ..... (hope) they would change their minds about it, though. It 15) ..... (be) a part of the town for years.
- B: Well, at least everyone who worked there 16) ..... (now/find) a new job. That's good news.

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Underline the correct tense.

- 1 I saw Jim this morning. He ran/was running for the bus.
- 2 Keri was angry. She had been waiting/was waiting for Sarah for two hours.
- 3 Andy was relieved to hear that he was passing/had passed the exam.
- 4 I was walking/had walked home when I saw Paul.
- 5 Brian learnt/had learnt how to spell his name at school today.
- 6 They hadn't visited/weren't visiting their grandparents for a long time.
- 7 I watched/was watching television when the telephone rang.
- 8 Jason had been thinking/had thought about his new car all day.
- 9 I bought the dress because I wanted/had wanted something special to wear to the party.
- 10 The little boy was crying because he had lost/was losing his mother.
- 11 Graham had been working/was working for the company for twenty years before he retired.
- 12 Pam opened/had opened the present and read the card.
- 13 Lucy wrote/had written a letter to her sister last night.
- 14 It had been raining/was raining all day and the roads were very wet.
- 15 Sue was smiling/had smiled as she was reading Mary's letter.

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Put the verbs in brackets into the correct past tense.

- 1 They ...were walking... (walk) in the park when the storm broke.
- 2 The man ..... (pay) for his new car in cash.
- 3 I ..... (already/eat) breakfast by the time the others woke up.
- 4 It ..... (snow) for three days when suddenly the sun came out.
- 5 Sam ..... (work) here for six years before he left to go to university.
- 6 Liz ..... (go) to the Bahamas for her holidays last year.
- 7 We ..... (watch) a film on TV when our guests arrived.
- 8 They ..... (already/see) the film twice at the cinema when she rented it on video.
- 9 The teacher ..... (teach) the children a song yesterday.
- 10 He ..... (sit) on the train at this time yesterday morning.

## IN OTHER WORDS

Study these examples. The second sentence has a similar meaning to the first sentence.

- 1 When did they buy their tickets?  
**since** How long is it **since they bought** their tickets?  
**ago** How long **ago did they buy** their tickets?
- 2 She didn't begin cleaning until after all the guests had left.  
**before** She waited until all the guests **had left before she began** cleaning.
- 3 We haven't seen Carol for two weeks.  
**time** The last **time we saw** Carol was two weeks ago.
- 4 It's a long time since I ate out.  
**have** I **have not eaten** out for a long time.
- 5 It was the first time they had flown by Concorde.  
**never** They **had never flown** by Concorde before.

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Complete each sentence with two to five words, including the word in bold.

- 1 Jack hasn't travelled abroad for years.  
**time** The last ...time Jack travelled... abroad was years ago.
- 2 When did Monica get married?  
**since** How long is it ..... married?
- 3 It was the first time she had visited the National Gallery.  
**never** She ..... the National Gallery before.
- 4 Jessica didn't start cooking until after the children had fallen asleep.  
**before** Jessica waited until the children ..... started cooking.
- 5 The last time I went to the theatre was months ago.  
**have** I ..... the theatre for months.
- 6 It's two months since she called me.  
**has** She ..... me for two months.
- 7 The president waited until all the reporters had arrived before he made his statement.  
**making** The president didn't ..... statement until all the reporters had arrived.
- 8 We haven't played chess for a month.  
**since** It's a month ..... chess.
- 9 She waited until Tom had left before she began packing.  
**after** She didn't begin packing ..... left.